

# MAKE US WORTHY, O LORD

THE tragedy of mankind moves on to its grand climax. Not a heart in the civilised world is there that does not beat high to think of the Peace that has come within sight. It is as if the gates of heaven were to be opened for us.

And yet how many wide gulfs must yet be bridged, how many deep waters crossed, before the day is ours! Every night when we lay our head on the pillow we know that men have died for us. Every morning when we wake we know that more must die. There is within our grasp the most glorious triumph over evil that the world has ever known, but a hundred thousand of the flower of men, hundreds of thousands of heroic spirits, must give themselves for us and vanish from the stage of life before it can come true.

## The Price of Our Lives

And what of us, we who stay at home and see the golden crocus nodding to the Spring? Safe from the anguish of the battlefield (save when some little school must be extinguished by a sudden stroke or some devoted family blotted out by a satanic blow) we remain unfettered and free. Is it not almost too much that life should be so smooth for us compared with theirs who face the rush of fire and steel and plunge into the pit of death? To those whose hearts are not of stone it is an overwhelming thing to reflect upon the price by which we live. It is the price of the death of the bravest men who ever loved our English life and our English ways.

THEY give themselves, these splendid captains, that "life may be good and joy run high between English earth and sky." They give their years, their hopes, all their dreams and friends, all their struggling and achieving, all the proud heritage of which they meant to be worthy, all the memories of childhood and the promise of manhood, that we may remain, that we may see the daffodils blow, and the roses bloom, and the beech turn brown, and the trees hold up their living fretwork to the winter storm. It is for us that they come beset by riddling hail and sway like sedges in a gale:

*They gain the ground there, yard by yard,  
Their brows and hair and lashes charred,  
Their blackened teeth set firm and hard.*

*Pale colonels, captains, ranksmen lie,  
Facing the earth or facing sky;  
They strove to live, they stretch to die.*

It is for you and me. All this measureless grief, this courage that knows no bounds, this pouring out of the rich sweet wine of youth, is that life may be serene for us, and with no tale of shame to tell. It is to enrich our lives with a glory that will shine in history like the stars, to vitalise the spirit of our country so that it shall endure the battle and the breeze another thousand years.

## The Decadents

It is to make our generation worthy of the splendour of the heroes that begat us. We were decadent, they said, and our imperishable youth has answered them. It has set its throne in the heavens, it rides the sea, it marches triumphant in the desert and scales the mountain peak.

It has happened before and it is happening again. It has been the fate of two generations in this crowning twentieth century that it has poured out the life of its youth on the battlefields. Once more life and death are locked in conflict as in Flanders Fields where poppies blow. Once more the flower of one generation dies that the rest of it may live, and the poignant message comes from our unconquered dead:

*To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch. Be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep . . .*

A MIGHTY multitude have died and more will die; the torch burns on. It is for us to hold it high, to be fit to claim that we are kinsmen of these mighty dead, that they were brothers of our race. It is for us to keep faith, to be worthy of these men who sway in the great battles of the world that life for us may be made possible.

Do we take it for granted that our table should be filled with food from day to day, that things should go on as they used to do except for some small inconvenience, that we can sleep in our beds at night and wake in the morning to the glory of another Spring? "Comfort, content, delight—they shrivelled in a night," says Kipling, and yet they have left us much.

## The Glory or the Shame

Ours is the proudest and happiest land in Europe, and if our resources are strained, if we must pay away our savings in taxes, it is something to be thankful for that the years of prosperity built up this wealth and strength to save us when the dark hour came. If we must put in all we have, every ounce of strength and faith and enthusiasm that we are capable of, it is to build up for our children the free and happy world that we have known, to carry on for them

*The world that was e'er we were born,  
The world that is when we are gone.*

ALL we have and are we owe to the past. All we can give we owe to the future. If the years have been full of pleasure for us it is not for that that we should be thankful; but for the chance life has given us of doing something for our country and mankind. Out of the deeds of our lives, out of the spirit in which we live, flows the future of our land. We, too, who stay at home are builders of its heritage, its astonishing power in the world. We share with those who fight and die the glory that is coming, or we slink away in shame seeking our own purposes, our own indulgences, our selfish ways, caring nothing whether all this suffering brings a warless world or not.

THE strength of the nation is the strength of all our lives added together. We weigh down the scales for victory or against it. Are we on the side of our fighting men, our soldiers and sailors and airmen, with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind, or do we give them something less than all? It is the first law now and nothing less will do. God helping us, we can do no other if we would not be false to all mankind.

Arthur Mee

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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EDITED BY ARTHUR MEE

## The Vigil



## Make Me Worthy, O Lord

From the painting by John Pettie

## NATURE CLOTHES OUR SCARS

### Flowers in London's Ruins

ONE by one London's scars are being healed and clothed with beauty, and Professor E. J. Salisbury, one of the most entertaining botanists of our generation, has been talking about them to the Royal Institution.

Plants have been springing up everywhere among the ruins, the greatest variety being in the west, owing to the prevailing winds and to the greater number and greater size of gardens from which the seeds could come.

The most common plant on all the bombed sites is the Rosebay Willowherb, the lovely red flower which grows in wild masses wherever it can find plenty of light. It has no objection to heat, as so many plants have, and it thrives on nitrates, which are abundant in scorched earth. One Willowherb may have 80,000 seeds in a season, each seed with 70 silky hairs, which open out to form a parachute in dry air and shut again

on reaching damp ground. Its underground shoots will spread a yard in a season.

Another common plant on the ruins is the familiar Groundsel, which has only 1100 seeds but may have several generations in a year. Coltsfoot, Canadian Fleabane, Sunthistle, and Dandelion are among the flowers that are blooming after the bombs, nearly a hundred kinds in all, and it is interesting that two kinds of ferns have sprung up in the ruins of St James's Church, Piccadilly. On the other hand, the London Rocket which grew profusely when St Paul's was burned down in 1666 has not been seen this time.

Another interesting fact that has come to light is that four flowering plants are now growing in the ruins of the medieval London church of St Olave's, Hart Street, where they buried Samuel Pepys one quiet night in 1703. No flowers can have flourished in this hallowed ground for five centuries or more.



# BEVERIDGE

## Parliament is Thirsty For It

It may be true, as Mr Bevin says, that man cannot live by Beveridge alone, but it is clear that Parliament is thirsty for it.

Few political documents of our time have engaged so much national interest as the Beveridge Report. Indeed the interest has been worldwide, for all the free nations are deeply interested in seeing whether we are in earnest in preparing for the Better World.

It is good news that the Government has given the Report close study and great sympathy, and although its attitude has been far from satisfying everybody (and has perhaps completely satisfied very few), there is no doubt that we may look forward to instalment after instalment of the Beveridge reforms being carried out as soon as possible.

It is true that it is generally felt that the Government, so brave abroad, is not bold enough at home, and is too often disposed to put things off and delay decisions on great matters which urgently demand attention now; and it is this feeling which is chiefly responsible for the discontent in the Labour Party, and in the Conservative and Liberal Parties too, concerning the Beveridge Scheme. There has been a genuine fear that the Government was paying lip-service to the new ideas but would not act.

In the three days debate in Parliament the first speech by Sir John Anderson and the last by Mr Herbert Morrison were far the best for the Government; Sir John Anderson, indeed, was extremely hopeful and conveyed the impression that the Government meant business and was prepared to listen to its critics and to shape its policy, if need be, in sympathy with the will of the House. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Kingsley Wood) came into the middle of the debate with a nose-pipe full of cold water, which he poured on all the high hopes of the House, declaring that, while the Government sympathised with the Beveridge Report, we must wait and see before anything could be done. It was not the matter but the manner of the Chancellor that saddened the hearts of hundreds of his hearers and millions of his countrymen.

## China Calls to Washington

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S speech to the House of Representatives in Washington created such interest that there were 10,000 demands for tickets.

Americans, she said, had the glorious opportunity of carrying on the work of their ancestors beyond the frontiers of their own country. Japan had immense resources in her occupied areas, and it was not in the interests of the United Nations that she

All would doubtless have been well had Sir Kingsley Wood been more hopeful and less insistent on difficulties, and had been able to promise the House that a Ministry of Social Security should be set up; but the creation of this much-needed ministry was postponed to an indefinite future. The critics of the Government's hesitancy were from all parties, and in the end the opposition was the strongest this Government has had to face; but there is a feeling that the Government's case is much better than the Chancellor made out, and the Home Secretary, in winding up the debate, declared that the Government accepted 16 of the 23 proposals in the Report, was reconsidering six more, and rejected only one. It accepted gladly the three great ideas of the Report—maintenance of employment, a comprehensive health service, and children's allowances.

These are immense steps forward, especially the children's allowances, a revolutionary change which would have created a sensation 20 years ago but now comes with the approval of all parties.

The free medical service for all will enable any person in the country to obtain all the attention needed, and the highest skill in the kingdom will be available to all.

It is the idea of Sir William Beveridge himself that his scheme must come in instalments, and if the Government will see that the instalments come steadily and substantially it will be satisfactory all round and an assurance of confidence to the nation that things are really going to be better when these days are over. It is the Better World our people long for, and if they are discontented it is only because the Government seems so slow in home affairs.

should be allowed to hold them. China had been fighting for five years, often only with swords, and had not counted her manpower, and she was fighting for a better world for mankind.

President Roosevelt has promised that America will give China all the aid she can as soon as she can, and that America means to use China as a spring-board for direct attacks on the Japanese mainland.

## WHAT TO DO WITH COUNTRY HOUSES

It is a valuable step forward that the National Trust should be prepared to accept the gift of country houses which can be used as education centres.

Such residential centres have long been popular in Scandinavia, which has 200 and more for 16 million people, compared with nine in this country for 44 millions. It would be an ideal use of these great houses, which

can hardly now be used as private homes, to transform them into residential colleges on the lines of those already started by the Workers Educational Association; as Professor Livingstone says, "Such a use of them will be characteristic of our national genius, whose way it is not to destroy or squander the rich legacy of the past but to adapt it to the service of a new age."

# COULSON KERNAHAN

## Remarkable Story of a War Prophecy

OUR old friend Coulson Kernahan, whose books were widely read by the last generation, has passed on in his 85th year.

He was a great authority on books and wrote or edited dozens of them, and in the midst of all his work he gave up much of his energy to joining Lord Roberts in his campaign for National Service long before our era of wars began. He felt that the world was passing into a dangerous era, and that only by being strong could we save ourselves and help to save mankind. But the nation was peace-minded and did not listen. Lord Roberts died, but Mr Kernahan lived on to see his warnings realised, and to be greatly distressed by the state of the world. But he found solace to the end in his beloved books and every week he looked forward to the C N.

One of the curious things that greatly pleased him was that in his youth, greatly daring, he wrote to Mr Gladstone; and a few years ago, when the Gladstone papers (thousands and thousands) were read at the British Museum, the letter from the unknown Coulson Kernahan was among them! He knew most of the distinguished writing men of his long life and was popular with them all. Few men had a richer store of happy memories than he, in the days of his retirement at Fairlight near Hastings, where, his wife dying, he lived on quietly with his daughter, his best friend to the end.

## Lord Roberts Speaks

Mr Kernahan declared that Lord Roberts had predicted the last Great War during a visit to Quebec in 1908, and he was referring to a meeting of Lord Roberts with newspapermen, to whom he said:

"They refuse to believe me when I tell them in England that we are asleep under a false security. I want to tell you now that in my opinion Europe is heading straight into the most terrific war in history. But no one that matters believes me."

Questioned as to when this war might break out, Lord Roberts said: "The moment Germany is ready, 1914 at the latest; and let me add that England and France will have the most trying experience of their existence. They will, in fact, come so near defeat that they will be fortunate to maintain their democratic status."

"I make one more prediction. There is today in the Ecole Militaire in Paris a professor by the name of Foch who is destined for everlasting fame in military history. He is the man who will see us on the side of victory, what little victory there remains when it is all over."

## The People's House

It is just a year since Turkey had the great idea of founding what it calls People's Houses (Halk Evi) all over the country, and they are now found everywhere, even in the remotest places. They are centres for developing the social and cultural life of the Turkish people and have become very popular. One has been opened in London.

# LITTLE NEWS REELS

Two years ago 350,000 children were receiving dinner at school in this country; last October the number was a million; soon it may be two millions.

The increase in the yield of our soil is now reckoned at 70 per cent since 1939, a remarkable achievement.

We are now producing more food per acre, and more food per man at work on the land than any other country.

A Japanese aeroplane has been seen over Sydney, evidently flown from a ship at sea.

The number of meat pies sold to land workers has now reached about 900,000 in a week, and they go to nearly 3000 villages.

Haile Selassie, Emperor of Abyssinia, has sent 58 gold rings, worth £700, as an expression of his admiration of the R A F; they are to be sold for the Benevolent Fund.

THE Lord Chancellor has declared that the surrender of war criminals will be a condition of the Armistice, and that the guilty will include those who give orders for crimes and those who carry them out.

There are now over 150 secret newspapers in Belgium alone.

Barnardo's Homes acknowledge with warm thanks a pound note from a C N reader at Penicuik.

In a room in Manchester there are on full war work three old ladies whose total ages count up to 224.

A worker in an aircraft factory somewhere in the South, in a letter to a friend, tells how he and his fellow workers have increased production 300 per cent in a certain job by cooperating.

## Scout and Guide News Reel

AMERICAN Soldier-Scouts now in this country are starting an American Scout Club in London.

Congratulations to Mr F. Haydn Dimmock, who has just completed his twenty-fifth year as Editor of The Scout, a splendid record.

June Mackenzie, the 15-year-old company leader of the 4th Herne Bay Guides, receives the Guide Silver Cross for her gallantry in rendering First Aid, although herself wounded, when the bus in which she was travelling was hit by a bomb.

Scouts hold 266 gallantry awards, including three V Cs, nine D S Os, 74 D F Cs, and 29 G Ms.

## Salute to Russia

Who would have believed ten years ago, or even five, that we should celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Red Army with a great display in the Albert Hall and a speech by the Foreign Minister on behalf of the Government?

Yet it was one of the most enthusiastic events in our recent history, for the Red Army has completely destroyed the idea that the Nazis are unbeatable.

King and people joined warmly in saluting the Red Army, for the people crowded meetings all over the country and the King offered a Sword of Honour to the heroic City of Stalingrad "as a token of admiration, not only of the British peoples but of the whole civilised world."

Workers who were demolishing a blitzed house near Littlebourne, Kent, found 17 wasp nests, 286 queen wasps, and three mosquito nests.

CONEY WESTON Methodist Sunday School in Suffolk, instead of buying prizes, has sent £6 to the Red Cross.

A new law in the United States has restricted the number of kinds of electric lamps by one half, but even this leaves the astonishing number of 1700 varieties.

Flying-boats and landplanes of Overseas Airways last year flew ten million miles and carried 43,000 passengers and 850 tons of mails.

More than two million good milk bottles were found among rubbish in London in one year; it is an offence to keep them or destroy them.

At the recent election in Bristol only just over one quarter of the electors voted.

About five hundred flights across the Atlantic are now being made every week, day and night.

THE Russian Government has created 15 scholarships in memory of Sir Isaac Newton, to celebrate the third centenary of his birth; they are for students in Newton's own field of science.

At the cotton-spinning mill of Joshua Hoyle at Bacup are over 70 people who have been working there half a century or more; and at one Hoyle mill two married couples are still working whose ages add up to 120 and 113 years.

A Sheffield steel works has just held a Production Week, in which 3000 of its girl workers voluntarily gave up all forms of amusement, including dancing, in order that they should not be late for work.

The Guides fourth target month aimed at the upkeep of birds for the Army Pigeon Service, and on February 20 messages from Guides all over Britain and in Northern Ireland were sent by carrier pigeons to London.

Scouts of the 8th Oxford (Highfield) Group recently underwent a Toughening Course at an Army training camp, and the instructor said that the Scouts were as efficient as the soldiers.

The Silver Cross has also been awarded to Miss Margaret Kendall, captain of the 7th North Stepney Guides, for her devotion to duty in fighting throughout the night fires caused by the bombing of Toynbee Hall in 1941.

## THE PRINCESS TO THE GUIDES

Princess Elizabeth sent this message to the Guides by carrier pigeon on Thinking Day.

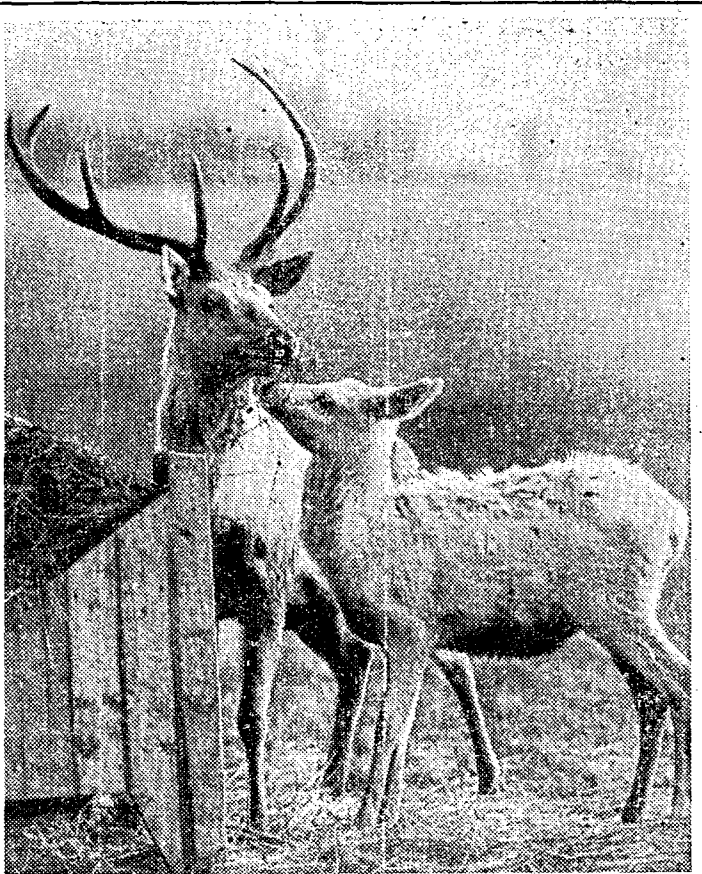
I am very happy to take my part in sharing thoughts and prayers with all Rangers, Guides, and Brownies throughout the world on this our Thinking Day. The winged message I send to you all brings greetings and good wishes from my sister and myself, with our sense of pride and thankfulness that Guides everywhere are taking their share in the great fight against evil.

## THINGS SEEN

The Bishop of Coventry enthroned in the ruins of his cathedral.

A mimosa tree blooming in a Watford garden last month.





A Portrait Study From Whipsnade

## Malta Saved by Monty's Men

Now that gallant Malta, G.C. is no longer a beleaguered outpost in a lonely Mediterranean, but a dagger pointed at the heart of Italy, we can speak without anxiety of the position in which she found herself only a few months ago.

We all remember the great convoy which got through to Malta in the autumn of last year, not without severe losses. We were told at the time that this convoy simply had to get through, but not the full story.

General Scobie, Commander-in-Chief of the Malta Forces, has now revealed it in Cairo. The air attacks of last April, which we knew were fierce, savage, and sustained, and which we have seen on the screen, not only reduced the numbers of the defending fighters, but by un-

lucky hits struck deep into the food reserves of George Cross Island; and when General Scobie told Air Vice-Marshal Coningham at his desert headquarters the great air chief was very frank. "If we lose the battle with Rommel," he said, "it is difficult to see how we can keep Malta."

We lost the battle; and Rommel advanced as far as El Alamein. But no farther. Montgomery's magnificent Eighth Army smashed him there. But food reserves and planes were then so depleted in Malta that the island faced starvation unless relief ships could get through before the end of November.

Their story, and that of Montgomery's army, is history today. The reply of Malta to the Axis will be written tomorrow.

## THE SIMPLE ROUND

The cooperative system of milk delivery is getting well into its stride all over the country. In Manchester and Salford about 2700 miles of milk delivery are being saved each week, and something like 17,000 customers have been transferred. In one Leeds road with about 50 houses there were formerly 12 milkmen with various methods of delivery, including horse-drawn floats and motor-vans; now one man delivers all the milk.

## CITY OF FREEDOM

Hull has cause to be proud, for it has given the world many famous men; and has felt the savage might of German attack without flinching.

In America it is known as the city which gave the world William Wilberforce, the man who freed the slaves.

The other day a party of American coloured soldiers visited Hull, and came upon a plaque in one of the streets indicating the spot where a monument of Wilberforce had stood till recently. Instantly they knelt down and kissed the ground.

## LOOKING FOR RUBBER

No other war has caused such an intensive search for raw material as this, and no crisis has ever revealed how full the earth is of treasure, and how quickly man finds one new thing after another to replace something he has lost.

A recent example of the search for rubber to replace losses in Malaya and elsewhere is seen in the successful work now being carried out in Natal, where an excellent rubber latex is being tapped from the tirucolli tree, which grows in large numbers. About 600 tons of rubber are now being harvested from the guayule crop at Salinas, California, where an annual output of 80 thousand tons is hoped for in two or three years. Guayule rubber will also be produced in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

## THE LITTLE RED DOME

An electric lamp for seamen when wearing life-jackets in the water is being made by a London firm. A miniature lamp bulb protected by a transparent red dome is attached to the shoulder of the jacket by a strong clip, and a flexible wire runs from it to a small battery fitted inside the jacket. It weighs less than half a pound, and will give a light continuously for twelve hours.

## NO COPPERS TO SPARE

The cent is going the way of the penny. In the United States, as here, there is not enough copper to spare for coining more.

Last year in the States 4000 tons of copper were coined into 1500 million cents, which over there they call pennies, though they are really only halfpence. But by whatever name they are called, that amount of copper would, according to the U.S. Mint, provide for the copper needs of two cruisers, two destroyers, 1245 Flying Fortresses, 120 field guns, and 120 howitzers. So now the Mint is considering the replacement of the bronze coins by a plastic material, or steel covered with a one per cent skin of zinc to preserve them from rust.

## GROW YOUR OWN GREENS

The war has witnessed a great increase in allotments. They have almost doubled, and have now reached 1,750,000.

Their importance cannot be exaggerated, for if we had more families growing their own vegetables there would be a great saving in transport and of labour on the farms to produce wheat and potatoes. It is estimated that only two out of every five of our families grow their own vegetables.

## HOW TO MAKE VICTORY IMPOSSIBLE

By Canada's Prime Minister

Canada has reduced the sales of beer by ten per cent and spirits by thirty per cent. The Prime Minister, Mr Mackenzie King, speaking of the great increase in drinking in the last few years, blamed drink for absenteeism among war workers, and added:

*No one will deny that the excessive use of alcohol would do more than any other single factor to make impossible a total war effort.*

## Good News by Short Wave

WE hear that a short wave radio fan in Natal has become known as the Good Samaritan of the air waves.

He relays messages from British prisoners of war who broadcast over the Italian radio to their families. The other day a lady in Cape Town was overjoyed to hear from her husband, a prisoner, through this unknown listener. After giving her the prison address and the message he had heard from her husband, he wrote, "Trusting this will be the means of relieving you of any anxiety."

Across the world in Atlanta, Georgia, is another happy

woman, a wife who has just received forty letters from different people who heard her husband, a Navy officer, broadcasting that he had been taken prisoner by the Japanese. She had thought him lost.

Every now and then there is a special American broadcast from Tokyo beginning with the theme song My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, after which prisoners of war are allowed to broadcast to their relatives. Most of them say the food is "fine" and living conditions "pretty good," but one Australian, speaking to his wife, said sadly, *I will never again complain about your cooking.*

## A LETTER FOR DAVID

When Mr Churchill dined with General Montgomery in the Middle East, the General said he would like to write to his son David, who is 13 and at Winchester, if the post was not so slow.

The Middle East post is as swift as it can be, but private letters from generals get no preference over letters of private soldiers, which is as it should be.

"Give me the letter," said the Prime Minister. When Mr Churchill came home he sent a message to Canon Leeson, the Head of Winchester, asking if David might come to London for a chat.

Unfortunately, David had a cough that day, and the next day he was in the "Sanny" with a temperature, so Montgomery's letter to his son was safely locked up with the State papers until he was well enough to visit the Prime Minister-postman.

## BRITISH LEGION'S IDEA

The British Legion have determined that no children of men killed on Active Service shall be in need of a comfortable home. A scheme is being prepared by which it will be possible to get into touch with any such homeless child and provide board and lodging with the least possible delay.

## THE BANK BOOK

After 45,000 books had been sorted and put in sacks at a salvage depot at Smethwick, Birmingham, during a Book Drive, a man reported that he had left some pound notes in a book he had given! There was nothing to be done save to empty the sacks, and the organisers of the drive set to work examining each book until the notes were found.

It seems worth while to add the moral that a book is not a bank.

## The Hot-Meal Van

SIXTEEN million meals were carried last year by the fleet of Emergency Food Vans presented to this country by Mr Henry Ford and his son.

Schoolchildren form their chief customers. No less than 177 of this fleet of 450 vans are employed daily on carrying hot meals to schools, so that the pupils may have at least one good hot meal each day. Others being supplied are agricultural workers, dockers, and workers in small factories.

Such a widespread service is made possible by specially-designed hot food containers in which the meals are carried. They keep the food hot for a number of hours, and so give the vans a wide operating range.

The actual number of meals served last year was 15,988,807, and the vans made 68,919 journeys, covering over 900,000 miles. The staff (mostly WVS) put in over 200,000 hours of voluntary work.



The Hot-Meal Van arrives at a Kingston-on-Thames school



## The EDITOR'S TABLE

### The Ministry That Can Lose the War

THE Ministry of Food can lose the war. We can't win it but we can lose it if things go wrong with the nation's food.

Lord Woolton

Then why is Beer allowed to imperil Victory by taking half a pound of food a day from every home in England?

### The Elegant MP

The Atlantic Charter is badly written. Sir Herbert Williams, MP

The Beveridge Report is very badly written.

Sir Herbert Williams

After this we looked up Sir Herbert's latest speech in Parliament with a rare expectancy, and found that, according to it,

Sir William Beveridge and a journalist had run a racket together;

The Times was the 3d edition of the Daily Worker;

It tried to impose on the country a perfectly stupid fuel scheme;

It was a silly ass;

Sir William Beveridge should be stopped from going stumping about the country.

Clearly the writers of State documents must model themselves on the elegant MP for Croydon.

### Fourth Generation

WE hear the story of a tailor who has just been renovating an overcoat made by his firm at Hull in 1874. The coat is now being worn by the fourth generation.

We hear, also, of a mother who has unravelled a pair of green stockings worn by her grandfather in the days of penny-farthings, and is now knitting the wool into a pair of gloves for her schoolboy son, another fourth generation story.

### To the Hun

HOWL ye, for the Day of the Lord is at hand. Isaiah

## An Old Battalion in Action

AN old, old Battalion is in the fight against the forces of evil. Goering has just admitted it.

It is the same Battalion that helped to bring about the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, drove him back from the gates of Moscow, and scattered the Spanish Armada.

It is the Battalion whose strength no man knoweth and the time of whose attack no man can foretell.

Again and again great armies and navies have swept on and on to victory, and then, when it seemed as if nothing could stop them, this all-powerful Battalion has intervened and rendered men and weapons as impotent as babies and their playthings.

The Grand Army, 400,000 picked soldiers of France, marching on from triumph to triumph, carrying everything before them, on the road to Moscow—who or what could halt that mighty host?

Suddenly a Battalion appeared from the skies, launched its devastating attack, and forced those trained warriors to turn their backs on war. Only a few thousand, a trail of rags and misery, survived the fierce onslaught and stumbled their weary, painful way homeward. The Grand Army was beaten by snow and ice! Zero hour at Waterloo was 6 a.m. "It will be all over by two o'clock," said Napoleon; and so it might have been, for Wellington, outnumbered, was awaiting help from Blücher, and Blücher was not due to arrive until five.

Again there appeared a Battalion from above! It

rained all night, and by morning the ground was so sodden that Napoleon was unable to use his artillery. Not a man but carried two or three pounds of mud clinging to his boots.

The delay cost him the victory. With the arrival of Blücher he was crushed for ever!

"My lord, my lord! They're coming!" cried a West Country man 350 years ago; "I saw them off the Lizard last night!" It was the Spanish Armada in full sail. Everyone knows what happened, how our men "drummed them up the Channel," how our fire-ships threw the invincibles into hopeless confusion, and how the Battalion from the skies drove all that was left of them around our rocky coast and home to Spain wrecked and tempest-worn! "He blew with His winds and they were scattered."

AND now, in this 20th century, Goering acknowledges that the greatest Battalion in history was also in action against the German hordes in their first winter in Russia.

"Not the enemy," said he at Hitler's birthday party (the birthday party without Hitler), "but the elements themselves rose and called halt to the victorious troops."

A second winter against the same grim, relentless foe—blinding snowstorms, blizzards, piercing winds! A second winter against the steady surge of the Russian Armies, whose axiom is that the best moment to advance is when it seems impossible. A second winter with the Nazis in full retreat all along the line, thrashed and beaten everywhere.

### The Melancholies

MANY listeners to a recent broadcast of "The Anvil" were shocked to hear that two speakers representing the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church were of the opinion that mankind is not likely to be freed of the scourge of war.

During the sixth and final broadcast it was stated that many listeners had written to express their concern at such a gloomy outlook, but the speakers remained melancholy and even attempted to justify their previous remarks.

They argued that until the coming of the sovereignty of God there will always be evil in the world, and that while there is evil there may be war. But surely we have utterly stamped out many sins and many forms of evil. We suggest that these broadcasters should read a little history, and not go about sowing the seeds of misery.

### JUST AN IDEA

How true it is that the lives of the best of us are spent in choosing between uncertain courses; yet how true that a good anchor keeps us straight.

## Under the Editor's Table

THE man who makes a habit of losing his collar stud in these days had better drop it.

AN egg for breakfast is a habit with some people. It must be broken.

PEOPLE in a hurry are often destructive. Tearing up the road.

SOMEONE suggests that the Five Service is more off the beaten track than the other Services. He needn't worry; none of them will be beaten.

Peter Puck Wants to Know



BRITISH housewives have a scheme for winning the war. A vegetable plot, no doubt.

A CAFÉ proprietor said he had nothing to give his customers. He was getting into a stew.

A CELEBRATED songwriter, ordered a change of air, wrote himself a new song.

How to make a book-mark. Smith Minor

If a sleeping bag does it with a dirty ever wakes up thumb.

## THE FRANCE THAT CANNOT BE BEATEN

THERE are signs that we may look forward to the day when all Frenchmen will band themselves together to fight the common foe.

In France party feeling has always run high in politics, and the number of parties has been too many to remember. All through the history of the Republic there have been pretenders to the throne, and the restoration of the Monarchy has been the accepted aim of a minority section of the French people.

The Fascist idea, too, has obtained greater hold in France than in any other Allied country, and as has been seen so plainly in Vichy, has been strong enough to maintain itself as the recognised Government under Nazi control.

Yet all the world knows that the overwhelming majority of the French people are on the side of the United Nations, working for them now in any way they can or waiting for the hour to strike.

### At St Nazaire

Never will the Allies forget the rising at St Nazaire, when the French people rose at the coming of the British Commandos and fought for days under the impression that the time had come. When the British forces began to land the Germans were stunned and seemed unable to believe their own eyes. The population of the town left their homes to attack the Germans.

The Germans showed signs of panic. They were then expecting a full-scale British invasion. Two thousand of their sailors were immediately ordered to evacuate inland. By eight o'clock on the morning of March 28 calm had temporarily been established. The Germans had succeeded in retaking the submarine base, but only after the re-embarkation of the British. What the Germans did not realise was that a number of Commando men had been left behind.

### The Fighting French

Throughout the afternoon the Germans were in a state of wild agitation and the town was in a ferment. At 7 p.m. the old entrance to the submarine base blew up with a violent explosion. As though by a pre-arranged signal, fighting immediately broke out between the Germans and the French population and the Commandos. A series of small but furious battles were fought in the streets, in cafés and in houses. Hostilities continued without respite over the weekend, and ended only on the morning of Tuesday, the 31st. The French population rose in a body and fought tigerishly with any arms on which they could lay their hands.

The horrible brutality of the Germans, maddened with terror and rage, had to be seen to be believed. About five hundred French civilians were killed.

St Nazaire remains the outstanding example of French resistance to their brutal invaders, but in a thousand ways and in ten thousand places resistance goes on. In two days not long ago over 1000 Frenchmen were arrested in Lyons, Toulouse, and Marseilles, and the arrests form striking evidence that the Nazi conquerors of France realise that they have not overwhelmed the spirit of the French people. For, whether those arrested are

saboteurs or merely hostages for the meek submission of their friends and neighbours, their numbers prove that the Germans realise that they have a hostile people to reckon with.

France may be down, but she is by no means out in the struggle for Freedom which has been her chief watchword since the capture of the Bastille in the Revolution. Since the ignoble Armistice with Hitler hundreds of simple men, women, and children have been executed, and thousands more have been imprisoned, because they loved their country above everything. Indeed, the world at large does not know of all the heroic actions that have taken place in this martyred country.

### The Price of Resistance

Actual examples of active opposition to the Nazis are difficult to find, for the most successful sabotage is, of course, achieved in secret.

Here, however, is a list of sentences passed in a single month of last year on French people whose resistance had been discovered; it has been compiled from German-controlled sources:

28 people condemned to death at Lille for sabotage, possession of arms, and political activities.

15 condemned to death at Nancy for propaganda and sabotage.

A Frenchman condemned to death for supplying civilian clothes to an English airman who had made a forced landing.

3 people condemned to death in Paris for attacking the police.

3 people condemned to death and one to 20 years hard labour at Clermont-Ferrand for treason.

6 men from the north-eastern region condemned to death for attacking German soldiers.

A Frenchman condemned to death at Lyons.

39 people condemned to imprisonment at Besançon.

A Paris engineer condemned to 20 years hard labour.

15 men from Deux-Sèvres condemned to five or ten years imprisonment.

A railwayman condemned to seven years imprisonment at Amiens for distributing pamphlets.

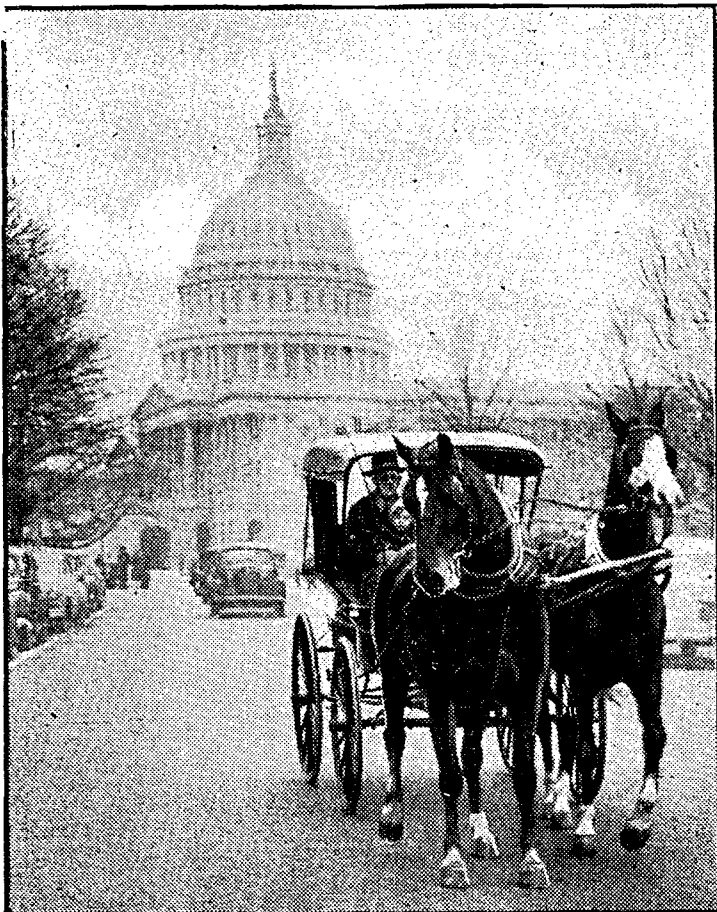
Over 50 people in various places condemned to hard labour.

### Young Patriots

The courage of those who faced the firing squads has been wonderful, and we have seen a photograph of a boy of 15 being tied to the shooting post. When a lorry-load of 27 people were being borne to the execution pit at Chateaubriant in Brittany they sang all the way the Marseillaise, with its exultant line "The day of glory has arrived."

This loathsome German practice of shooting hostages has only strengthened the resolve of the French to throw every possible obstacle in the way of their enemy, and they have not hesitated to demonstrate in thousands against such monstrous





### Visitors to the Capitol

A horse-drawn buggy appears among the cars at the Capitol in Washington, a sign that America, too, is cutting down the use of petrol for private purposes

Continued from the previous column  
acts. When in October, 1941, the Nazis executed 100 hostages at Nantes and Bordeaux, the people of France joined in a five-minute silence in their memory.

A boy of 17, Guy Moquet, was among the hostages shot at Nantes, and in his last letter he wrote: Of course, I would like to have lived, but I can only hope with all my heart that my death will serve some purpose. My life has been very short; but I have no regrets.

On other occasions there have been striking demonstrations against the Germans and their Vichy dupes. On May Day last year 50,000 sang patriotic songs before the splendid monument to the Republic, and another 50,000 demonstrated in the streets of Marseilles; there were 10,000 at Clermont-Ferrand, and 8000 at Toulouse.

There is one widespread movement which is binding together and heartening the spirit of resistance in France, and that is the secretly printed newspapers. They have a public of two millions.

These and other newspapers are organised so as not to overlap, and there is little doubt that they are more widely read than

the papers openly published under German censorship. This vast underground press has successfully outwitted the spies of the Gestapo, and it is chiefly through its agency that French resistance has proved so successful. The machinery of this secret press was behind the refusal of the skilled workers to be conscripted for work in Germany, and the threat of a nation-wide strike if the Germans insisted.

### The Day Will Come

This secret organisation serves other purposes as well, for not only does it hearten the people of France in their days of trial, but it enables contact to be kept up with those Frenchmen in this country and elsewhere who are working for the liberation of the country. One of its most difficult tasks, surely, must be to keep enthusiasm under control, for it would be fatal for France to revolt before the appointed hour. As has been well said, a barrel of gunpowder cannot be blown up twice. The gunpowder, however, is in France all right, only awaiting the match which is to be lit when the Allies arrive in sufficient strength to overwhelm the Nazis and drive them back to their own slave land.

## On the Face of the Waters

FROM an American correspondent comes a story of the sea, redeemed from its sadness by the simple faith and humanity of those who lived to tell it after their plane had sunk in the Pacific. There were eight of them who had found refuge in their little rubber raft, and the survivors kept alive for 21 days on rain water and raw fish caught in their hands.

They frankly put their rescues

down to Providence. They had a Bible and said prayers together often. Once, when food was very low, they prayed for help, and ("seamen will bear witness to it") within an hour a gull fell on the raft.

One man died in the arms of the leader of the party who ended his tale of their experiences with "I was cuddling him as a mother does a little child, because there had been a squall of rain and he was cold."

## CARRY ON

### GOD'S GARDEN

THE Lord God planted a garden  
In the first white days of the world,  
And He set there an angel-warden  
In a garment of light unfurled.  
So near the peace of Heaven  
The hawk might meet with the wren,  
For there in the cool of the even  
God walked with the first of men.  
And I dream that those garden closes,  
With their glades and their sun-flecked sod,  
And their lilies and bowers of roses,  
Were laid by the hand of God.  
The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth:  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.  
Dorothy Frances Gurney

### Great is Their Peace

GREAT is their peace who know  
a limit to their ambitious minds,  
that have learned to be contented with the appointments  
and bounds of Providence; that  
are not careful to be great, but,  
being great, are humble and do good.

Such keep their wits with their consciences, and with an even mind can at all times measure the uneven world, rest fixed in the midst of all its uncertainties, and, as becomes those who have an interest in a better, in the good time and the will of God, cheerfully leave this.

William Penn

### RICHES

AN aspiration is a joy for ever, a possession as solid as a landed estate, a fortune we can never exhaust and which gives us year by year a revenue of pleasurable activity. To have many of these is to be spiritually rich.

Robert Louis Stevenson

### Egypt's Might is Tumbled Down

EGYPT's might is tumbled down  
Down a-down the deeps of thought;  
Greece is fallen and Troy town,  
Glorious Rome hath lost her crown,  
Venice pride is nought.

But the dreams their children dreamed,  
Fleeting, unsubstantial, vain,  
Shadowy as the shadows seemed,  
Airy nothing as they deemed,  
These remain. Mary Coleridge

### THE ROADS ENDURE

GREAT roads the Romans built  
that men might meet,  
And walls to keep strong men apart,  
secure;  
Now centuries are gone and in defeat  
The walls are fallen but the roads endure. Ethelyn M. Hartwick

### Let Us Be Grateful

THINK a little less of your sorrows  
and more of your joys, for the joys will make you grateful, and gratitude is in itself one of the most beautiful pleasures of the soul.

Stopford Brooke

## The Cry of the Stricken City

How fitting are the Lamentations of Jeremiah today, with fallen cities filled with sorrowing people all over the earth!

How doth the city sit solitary,  
that was full of people!

All her people sigh; they seek bread;  
they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul.

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

Arise, cry out in the night;  
in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord.

Lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets. My virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword. Those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed.

How is the gold become dim! How is the most fine gold changed! The stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.

They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets; they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.

They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger, for these

pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.

Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles; they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens. We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers are as widows. Our necks are under persecution; we labour, and have no rest.

Servants have ruled over us; there is none that doth deliver us out of their hand.

We gat our bread with the peril of our lives because of the sword of the wilderness.

The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their music. The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.

The crown is fallen from our head; woe unto us, that we have sinned!

For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim.

Thou, O Lord, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.

Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, and forsake us so long time?

Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and renew our days as of old.

## THE GIFT I ASK

THESE are the gifts I ask  
Of Thee, Spirit serene:

Strength for the daily task,  
Courage to face the road,  
Good cheer to help me bear the traveller's load,  
And, for the hours of rest that come between,  
An inward joy in all things heard and seen.

These are the sins I fain  
Would have Thee take away:

Malice and cold disdain,  
Hot anger, sullen hate,  
Scorn of the lowly, envy of the great,  
And discontent that casts a shadow grey  
On all the brightness of a common day. Henry Van Dyke



THIS ENGLAND Through the farmyard to church at Coffinswell in Devon



## BEVERIDGE IN A NUTSHELL

We take from the famous medical organ *The Lancet* this briefest summary of the Beveridge Report that we have seen, an excellent summing-up of 300 pages in a few hundred words.

CONSIDER the individual. Whoever you are, so long as you are in work you will be called on to pay 4s 3d a week if you are a man or 3s 6d or 3s 9d if you are a woman. You will make this payment by buying a stamp from the local Security Office. Thus there is to be a flat rate of contribution for all.

If you are an employer you will have to contribute about 3s a week for each employee to the security fund. Thus the poll tax on industry which the present insurance schemes embody is to continue.

In return for your contribution you will be insured against sickness or accident and unemployment at the benefit rate of 40s a week if married or 24s if single.

You will receive a basic retirement pension at similar rates, at 65 if you are a man or at 60 if a woman, but only if you cease work; if you go on working your pension will go up 1s or 2s for each extra year you work. You will get a marriage grant up to £10, a maternity grant of £4, and a funeral grant of £20.

If you are disabled you will receive a pension related to your previous earnings, not exceeding £3 a week and not less than your sickness benefit, if the disability is total. For each child after the first you will receive 8s a week, and if you are drawing benefit for sickness or other reasons you will also get 3s a week for your first child.

If you are a working woman and have a baby you will get 36s a week for 13 weeks to make up for your loss of earnings and encourage you to stay away from work as long as is really necessary; if you become a widow you will get 36s a week for 13 weeks, and if you have no children you will be given training in a new job if you need it; if you have children to care for you will get a guardian's benefit of 24s a week at the end of the 13 weeks as well as children's allowances.

Whoever you are, if you are out of work for more than 26 weeks, and there is no job in your old trade, you will be trained for a new one. Finally, your contributions will cover medical treatment for you and your family at home, in hospital, and at a rehabilitation centre, but when you are in hospital you will have to pay 10s a week out of your benefit which you would otherwise be spending on food and heat and clothes at home.

### HAM AND EGGS

It may well be believed that General Eisenhower's soldiers do not trouble themselves about North African politics, having other things to think about. But the situation could not be better put than it was by a doughboy who was asked how the Americans got on with the French. "Why, sure," said he, "we get on fine—we're just like ham and eggs together."

## The Great Scrap Hunt

The hunt for scrap is always on, and the pile goes mounting up. Here are some examples of what children have done.

At Bristol 218 children from 41 schools collected 42,700 volumes during a Book Drive.

At Weston-super-Mare, during the local Book Drive, two boys collected 650 books in two days.

In a fortnight 63 tons of scrap metal were collected by the school children of Bermuda.

Old bedsteads and other scrap metal were stacked at the front of a cinema at Brigg in Lincolnshire when 700 children brought to a free show two and a half tons of salvage.

Over 260 miles of string was collected by the children of forty schools, in Sidcup and Chislehurst, and maps and charts are being made of paper manufactured from it.

A German gun of 1915 was given to Churchers College, Petersfield, after the last war, and was buried in the school grounds ten years ago because people were tired of seeing it. It has now been dug out so that it may go back whence it came, in the form of a shell or a bomb.

The boys of the London Polytechnic, evacuated to Minehead, organised a scrap metal collection and undertook to scour the neighbourhood and visit every house, shop, and farm. They brought in a vast haul of bedsteads, stoves, prams, irons, fenders, old car parts, lawnmowers, rollers, tools, and miscellaneous scrap amounting to about 100 tons.

Three pupils of Monckton House School, Cardiff, opened an empty shop as a receiving depot, and collected 5000 books.

### Andorra's 300

It is lucky for some 300 British, French, and American exiles who used to live in the fair land of France that Hitler decided to leave the tiny Republic of Andorra alone.

Andorra, Europe's smallest independent State, is only a quarter as big as Greater London, and its population is under 6000. It is under the joint control of France and Spain in ordinary times, but in fact has always enjoyed effective independence in its affairs. After all, when a country's capital has fewer inhabitants than are to be found in some City offices it is likely to escape the eye of the most comprehensive dictator.

Andorra City had 700 inhabitants. Now it has 1000, and the extra 300 are doubtless very welcome. For, although they are refugees from the Huns, they are all wealthy people, for only rich people managed to get away from Unoccupied France when Hitler marched in last autumn.

If Andorra had been on the French instead of the Spanish slopes of the Pyrenees the exiles might not have been so lucky; but Hitler is anxious not to offend his good friend Franco, and has kept his jackboot out of Spanish soil.

So the fortunate 300 may perhaps be left alone until the end of the war. They may find Andorra dull, but it will be safe enough in a very unsafe world.

## PLANET, MOON, AND STAR Comet Whipple Leaving Us

VENUS is now a brilliant object in the south-west evening sky, where she may be seen from soon after sunset until about 8.30 p.m., after which she will be too near to the horizon for observation, writes the C N Astronomer. The crescent Moon will appear close to Venus on the evenings of March 7 and 8. As Venus is now approaching us, she will rise higher in the sky and set later; her brilliance will increase, and so she will become a splendid object throughout the spring and summer.

In the late afternoon of March 12 the Moon, then near first-quarter phase, will pass in front of the first-magnitude star Aldebaran. Unfortunately this occultation takes place about 5.40, that is some 17 minutes before sunset. Aldebaran will therefore not be visible, except through a telescope or possibly through powerful binoculars. With this aid Aldebaran may be seen beforehand a little way to left of the Moon, and will disappear behind the dark unlit edge of the lunar disc; thus an opportunity will be provided for observing a star in daylight, owing to the ease with which it may be found. Aldebaran will reappear about 1 hour and 12 minutes later from behind the right side of the Moon, when it may be sufficiently dark to see the star reappear. But as in this case it emerges from behind the Moon's bright edge, Aldebaran is not likely to be perceptible for a few minutes afterwards; so glasses will also help in spotting the star soon after emergence.

### A Fleeting Visitor

The Comet Whipple continues to be visible, though appearing much less bright as it recedes from the Earth and the Sun. Field-glasses will help us to view this fleeting visitor as it speeds away into the dark depths of space. The next few nights, when the Moon is not too much in evidence, will be best suited for watching the comet gradually progress southwards to the right of the Tail of the Great Bear, as shown in the star-map.

The comet has not provided much of a naked-eye spectacle owing to the absence of a perceptible Tail. This caused it to appear very much like a star, and therefore to be overlooked, unless it was noticed that the star appeared to be enveloped in a globular luminous mist. This constituted the dim, hazy Head of the comet, and was at one time upwards of 100,000 miles in length.

### A NEW NORWAY RISING

This is from a letter written by a Norwegian girl to her brother, who fights with the free Norwegian forces here in England.

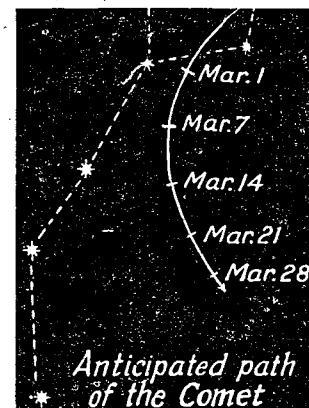
WELL, I hope this letter will reach you safely. Things are quite tolerable here in Norway. The schools have started again, and travel and the mail function again almost normally.

Oh, but our feelings! Nobody outside can realise them. Just think that the best of our youth is imprisoned; our men are sent to Germany and their property stolen!

We face grim times. The teachers will probably be sent to Germany; the women teachers are going to work in the hospitals. But there is a saying among the people of Norway today: "So that the many may live I must be prepared to sacrifice all—yes, even life itself." As our own country and our own

diameter, though it did not appear to the eye more than half of the apparent width of the Moon.

The Nucleus, which is the brilliant star-like centre within the Head, or *Coma*, as astronomers



say, was relatively bright, and doubtless caused many observers to mistake the comet for a star, as they may have expected to see the curving tail usually shown in pictures of comets, but which is by no means a necessary appendage.

It is the movement of this apparently "misty star" which quickly proves it to be a comet. This movement amounted to between 1500 and 2000 miles a minute when in the vicinity of the Earth, and increased considerably as the comet approached nearer to the Sun; but the comet's speed is now diminishing, and will become slower and slower as it recedes farther from the Sun. Viewed through a telescope the comet was a strange and fascinating object, apparently much foreshortened because observed partly in the line of sight. The Tail was very faint and streamed away into the far distance, appearing not more than about twice the width of the Moon in length.

G. F. M.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Billy Minds the Shop

WHEN Billy went to buy a paper one morning from the little shop in the market-square he found his friend Mr Hobbs in tremendous spirits. His son Harry was coming home on leave.

"Oh, you will be glad to see him!" exclaimed Billy.

"Indeed I shall," said Mr Hobbs. "And so will his sister," he added, "and she'll never forgive me if I don't let her know at once."

"Send her a telegram," suggested Billy. But Mr Hobbs said he couldn't leave the shop.

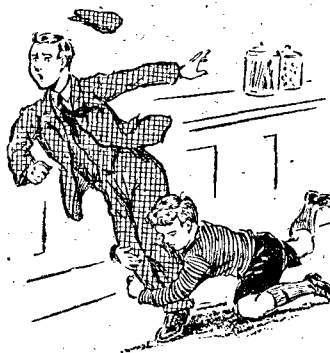
"I'll go," offered Billy. But Mr Hobbs shook his head. "It's market day," he said, "and there's a lot of traffic about. But perhaps you could mind the shop while I go?"

Of course Billy could, and said so emphatically. So Mr Hobbs reached down his hat, stuck it on his head, and hurried off.

And almost before he was out of sight who should come strolling along but Steve O'Brien. He seemed greatly amused to see Billy trying to look as big and important as possible behind the counter. "Consider yourself in charge, I suppose?" he jeered.

"Yes, I am," replied Billy stoutly. Whereupon, with an unpleasant smile, the big bully picked up a packet of chocolate and was making off with it.

But Billy was after him in a flash. He flung himself at Steve's legs—the only part of him that he could reach—and held on grimly. Steve, taken off his balance, went down



with a wallow. And down went Billy on top of him.

Mr Hobbs got back in time to see the two of them sprawling on the floor of his shop. But before he could be made to understand what had happened the bigger boy had scrambled to his feet, flung three pennies on the counter, and run off.

"He was trying to steal some chocolate," stammered Billy.

Mr Hobbs sighed. "Never mind, sonny," he said, smiling at the little boy's flushed face. "You put up a splendid fight—and won, didn't you? I couldn't have left my business in better hands, that's certain."



The Children's Newspaper, March 6, 1943

## POLAND TO THE NEUTRALS

### Mercy Will Be Paid For

THE Polish Government has taken a step which indicates that, like Dr Benes, President of Czecho-Slovakia, they feel that the end of the Nazis draws near.

Neutral countries are being asked to shelter any Poles who may escape into them, and are assured that the Polish Government will pay for the keep of any of these refugees, and that their way home will be swiftly opened as soon as possible after the war.

Let it not be imagined that the refugees cannot get away in very large numbers. They can. Day by day the difficulties created, in Germany and in the occupied lands, by the enslaved foreign workers form a tragic problem for Germany, so much so that a special rural guard, the Landwacht (Country Watch), has been organised to prevent workers escaping. The leading Nazi newspaper, Hitler's People's Watchman, stresses the growing fear that in the event of a German military collapse these workers, and especially the Russians, may become a serious menace.

Moreover, Swedish travellers who have lately returned from Germany have expressed amazement at the huge numbers of foreign workers walking about freely in German towns and villages. Apparently the Nazis simply have not enough police to check their movements. And we need scarcely add that as the news of Russian victories spreads all over Germany these unwilling visitors grow bolder.

It may be that Hitler now relies not on his own Gestapo to keep them in Germany, but on the frontier guards of Switzerland, and on the port authorities in Sweden, to which country it is by no means impossible for refugees to take ship nowadays. Nor is it impossible, particularly

for the Russians, to make their way to the Turkish border via Rumania and Bulgaria, seeing that the Bulgarians are not at war with the Soviet, and as a people have very friendly feelings towards Russia.

Therefore it may well be that, if the neutral Governments concerned could satisfy themselves that any hospitality and care they extend to the refugees will be paid for, they would open their frontiers freely. Let us not forget that this has been a matter stressed by critics of our own Government's failure to do anything now to take action on a great scale to help the European Jews.

### Starving Europe

However that may be, and however hard it is for our Government with so much on its hands, we know that as soon as fighting stops one of the first and most imperative duties of the Allies will be to feed starving Europe. Why not begin now, when we can, to feed that section of starving Europe which is able to get away from Hitler's horrible claws?

Let us not forget that these refugees, to take the lowest consideration, can be immensely useful to the war effort of the Allies. They have wandered widely through the Reich and the Realm of the New Order. They have seen much that our war chiefs would like to know. Some of them may well be highly-skilled technicians with access to German factories.

Many of the neutrals, who have hitherto had to restrain their sincere good feeling towards us, may now be only too glad to show their sympathy in a practical way.

The declaration of the Poles gives them their chance. It is a declaration which we wish our own Government had been the first to proclaim.

### MUSSOLINI'S FLAG IS UPSIDE DOWN

On a peak of Mount Kenya, 16,000 feet high, some mountaineers recently came upon a fluttering Italian flag, a strange sight here, and a rare sight anywhere in Africa now. Near it was a bottle with a paper written in Italian and English, affirming confidence in Fascist victory and a speedy "return to freedom."

Behind this misdirected zeal is an astonishing story of three Italian prisoners of war in a camp near Mount Kenya who are mountaineers in normal times. Heartily sick of the flatness of prison life, they sought relaxation by escaping and scaling the heights. They left a note saying they would be back in three days, and, having had their little hour of triumph, back they came to camp. It is significant that the flag, like the Fascist world, was upside down!

## Can School Make Good Citizens?

### THE BOY TALKS WITH THE MAN

**Boy.** I read so often of what the State ought to do in this and that. Do you think most people are conscious of their duty to the State, or that they realise fully the powers they possess?

**Man.** I think the true answer is that the individual is increasingly conscious of his duty to the State and of the power of the State, but that there is not yet a sufficient realisation of a citizen's duty. There is more of tame acceptance of law than of conscious will to act. We are not yet nearly fully educated in public responsibility.

**Boy.** So the root of the matter is education? Is it possible for our schools to make us good citizens as we grow up?

**Man.** It certainly should be so. First, we have to realise that we all enter life ignorant. Each white child is as much a savage as a black infant born in Africa. The child has no language; he imitates the sound he hears, and if he is born to uneducated parents he is in danger of never learning to use language properly. Schooling is free to all, but classes are often too big for teachers to cope with, and, while still children, and still ignorant, millions have to earn money with small chance of learning a trade properly. How can they learn how a city is governed, or the forms of government, which present themselves very vaguely even to most of us when we are grown up? We cannot wonder if the consciousness of public duty is exceedingly imperfect in those whose education is so neglected. It should be a first aim of the State to teach good citizenship to its children.

**Boy.** Could not the school be used to train the boy to understand his own city as well as the nation, and his place in both?

**Man.** Assuredly. At a very early age a child can be made aware of his own powers and taught how to use them. He can be shown what a jolly thing life can be. The school itself can be revealed as a body of spacious functions, which he can inhabit with conscious enjoyment, owing it duty while gaining from it the power to live usefully and joyously.

A wide and proper system of education would associate school with knowledge of the purposes of work and the methods of local and national government. The moving picture would be used to give him acquaintance with things far off, but what is near at hand would be examined personally.

**Boy.** That all seems very attractive, but I take it you are thinking of a considerable extension of the present school-leaving age?

**Man.** Yes; there should be an immediate extension to 16, but we must hope that before long legislation will prolong the years of systematic education to 17 or 18, using the years beyond 16 to educate youth into the understanding of citizenship.

Nothing is more remarkable in our society than the growth of associations, clubs, committees, and other organisations which show how many people already realise that by cooperation they can enlarge their lives and improve their personal position. All of these are different expressions of the voluntary setting up of "States within the State" which become associated in various ways with official bodies which are actual constituents of the nation. We can rely upon it, therefore, that with the aid of a wider conception of education the consciousness of a citizen's responsibility and duty to the State could be impressed upon our people with immense advantages to all.

## MR GANDHI

### The Violence of a Pacifist

ONCE more the world has seen the tragic spectacle of India deeply moved by Mr Gandhi, whose self-imposed sacrifice has sent a wave of painful emotion throughout the country.

Whatever we may think of this strange man, whom millions of his fellow Hindus regard as a saint, it is clearly impossible that the British Empire should surrender all the powers of law and order to Gandhism. Again and again it has been seen that this philosophy is nothing but political blackmail, a method by which a party seeks to win by force what it cannot win by reason or persuasion.

This time Mr Gandhi was arrested for organising a campaign of civil disobedience, the plunging of India into a state of

anarchy. As this campaign failed the prisoner declared his intention of refusing to eat, so risking death by hunger.

He had himself denounced such methods as an act of force which would destroy all law and government, but he was ready to act against his own counsel to embarrass the Government. The Government, having offered to set Mr Gandhi free for the period of the fast, declared itself unable to submit to blackmail in any circumstances, and it was inevitable that Mr Gandhi should be allowed to fast until a greater and wiser power should intervene, or he himself should end it.

In no circumstances could the Government be held responsible for the violence self-imposed by the Apostle of Pacifism.

### The Children's Hour

Here are details of the B B C programmes for Wednesday, March 3, to Tuesday, March 9.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Scottish Children's Players in folk music and a play, with the Kelvin Quintet.

THURSDAY, 5.20 A Nursery Sing-Song from the B B C at War Exhibition, Newcastle. 5.30 The Railway Children, the first instalment of a play by Edith Nesbit, adapted by Audrey Lucas.

FRIDAY, 5.20 The Big Six, part 3 of the serial by Arthur Ransome. 5.50 Robin Hood's News.

SATURDAY, 5.20 The Copper Maid, a Cornish story by Eileen Molony, read by Hedley Goodall; also songs

by Joyce Sutton. 5.45 Hockey—Sports Talk by F. N. S. Creek.

SUNDAY, 5.20 Songs and Hymns by the Greenbank Cooperative Children's Choir; followed by Joan Grant's story The Monster Who Grew Small. 5.50 Consider the Birds, by Laurens Sargent.

MONDAY, 5.20 Bruno, the Brown Owl, by Phyllis Kelsey; followed by Music at Random, by Helen Henschel. 5.45 A talk by Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P.

TUESDAY, 5.30 The Invisible Kingdom, a folk tale by Olive Dehn; also Trio Tunes played by Laurence Turner, Haydn Rogerson, and Stephen Wearing.

### "FOUNTAIN PEN" ACTION

The Gillott Nib with the new "Inkeduct Reservoir" attachment (Pat. No. 477466) gives fountain pen action with advantages of Gillott Stainless Steel Nib. "Inkeduct" opens for easy cleaning. Supplied with four patterns of nib.



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### WAR ALONE

will not win Freedom, the foundation of which is Christianity. Our Youth Organisations foster self-expression in healthy games and by cultural and spiritual activities seek to win our young people, the men and women of tomorrow, for Christ. New equipment is needed urgently. Please help liberally.

The REV. PERCY INESON, Supt.,  
The EAST END MISSION (Founded 1883), Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.



### CROSS? PEEVISH?

Little insides need the safe, GENTLE Laxative—Complaxa



Harsh, griping, pinching laxatives are not good for children's delicate organs. Mothers, be on the safe side—give your children Complaxa—the Complete laxative—that won't pinch or gripe, but is coaxingly soothing—just what every child needs occasionally to keep its little inside sweet and clean. Of pleasant orange flavour.

Price 1/5, including purchase tax, from Boots, Timothy Whites, Tanners and all chemists.  
Sole Distributors: SCOTT & BOWNE LTD., Wexham Springs, Stoke Poges, Slough, Bucks.

**Complaxa**  
REGD TRADE MARK  
THE Complete LAXATIVE  
\* Eat as a Sweet \*



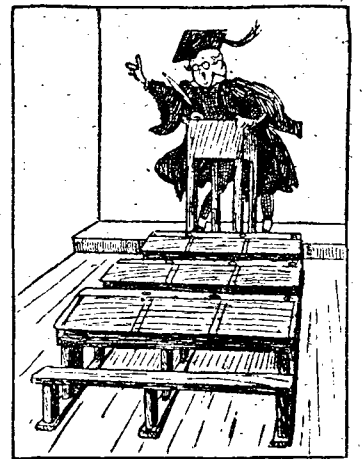
## OVERDONE

PAT MURPHY and Mike Rafferty were looking at the front of a public building, when Pat pointed to the letters MDCCCXCVII cut in the stone, and asked what they meant.

"Eighteen hundred and ninety-seven," said his friend.

"Well," replied Pat, "don't you think they are rather overdoing this reformed spelling?"

## The Professor



SEVEN pupils in the class  
Of Professor Callias  
Listen silent while he drawls.  
Three are benches, four are walls.  
Henry Van Dyke

## Division

The answer to this puzzle, incorrect in some of last week's copies, should read 2½d and 3½d.

## THE BRAN TUB

## Revised

DECORATIONS of the golden grain  
Are set to allure the aged fowl  
in vain.  
This is another way of saying  
old birds are not caught with  
chaff.

## Rationed

THERE was an old lady of York  
Who said she was sure cheese  
was chalk,  
And she thought veal was ham,  
And that treacle was jam,  
And mutton she said must be  
pork.

## Family

AT a family reunion the party  
consisted of one grandmother,  
one grandfather, two fathers,  
two mothers, one father-in-law,  
one mother-in-law, one son-in-  
law, two sons, three daughters,  
two granddaughters, and two  
grandsons.

There were only eight people  
present. What was their re-  
lationship to each other?

Answer next week

## Ici on Parle Français

## Le Chien qui se sacrifie

Une lectrice nous fait part de ce  
qu'elle considère, à juste titre, être  
une anecdote touchante de l'héroïsme  
d'un animal.

C'était un petit terrier brun  
qui demeurait dans un village du  
Derbyshire.

Un jour qu'ils traversaient à  
pied des champs dans le voisinage  
de leur maison, son maître et sa  
maîtresse s'alarmèrent à la vue  
d'un taureau furieux qui s'élan-  
çait à leur rencontre. La dame  
ordonna à Rover de l'attaquer,  
dans l'espoir qu'il détournerait  
l'attention du taureau jusqu'à  
ce qu'ils fussent en sûreté. Sans  
hésiter une seconde, Rover courut  
droit au taureau, et, hélas!  
détourna trop bien son atten-  
tion, car il fut percé par les cornes  
qui traversèrent le cœur. Il rampa  
alors vers sa maîtresse, et se  
coucha à ses pieds, mort.

## Jacko Does His Best



WHEN Monkeyville started a Paper Salvage drive Jacko and Chimp set to  
work to collect every scrap they could find. Father Jacko said it was  
as much as he could do to keep a newspaper long enough to read! When  
the boys had each filled sacks they took them to the Town Hall—and ran plop  
into the Mayor, who was sallying forth in his robes to an important meeting.

## SPEEDY

EMPLOYER, to new boy: You're  
the slowest youngster I've  
ever had. Aren't you quick at  
anything?

Boy: Yes, sir; nobody can get  
tired as quick as I can.

## Do You Live in Bedfordshire?

BEDFORDSHIRE is the shire, or  
county, of Bedford, which  
means the ford of Boeda. No  
doubt there was a ford over the  
Ouse which was controlled by a  
chief named Boeda, and the  
place came to be associated with  
his name. It was formerly spelt  
Boedafoord scire.

## PALINDROMES

PALINDROME is a word which  
means running back, and a  
palindrome is a word or sentence  
which reads the same backwards  
or forwards. There are many  
well-known palindromes, such as  
"Madam, I'm Adam," "Able was  
I ere I saw Elba." Here are five  
more unusual ones:

Stiff, O dairyman, in a myriad  
of fits.

No, it is opposed; art sees  
trade's opposition.

No, it's a bar of gold, a bad log  
for a bastion.

Red root put up to order.

Draw pupil's lip upward.

## Other Worlds

IN the evening the planet Venus  
is low in the west; Saturn  
and Uranus are  
in the south-  
west; and Jupi-  
ter is high in  
the south. In  
the morning  
Mars is in the  
south-east. The  
picture shows  
the Moon as it may be seen at  
7 o'clock on Thursday morning,  
March 4.

## Nip and Squeak

Mrs Nip and Mrs Squeak were  
both extremely proud.  
Their manners were exactly it,  
and never, never loud,  
And both the Mousey families  
eternal friendship vowed.

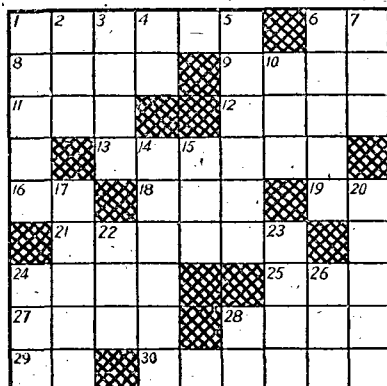
And yet there came a dreadful  
day  
When manners were forgot;  
I won't repeat just what they  
said,  
But it was quite a lot.

They bit and scratched with all  
their might.  
That night and all next day.  
And, sad to say, although this  
fight  
Was fought one day last week,  
They still pass by with heads  
held high,  
And do not even squeak.

## Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Burdened. 6  
Bachelor of Arts. 8 Border. 9 Black  
like ebony. 11 Bustle. 12 Portion.  
13 To direct and control. 16 French  
tor and. 18 A container. 19 Electric  
light. 21 The baker and the milkman  
cover these. 24 Works with a ratchet-  
wheel. 25 Queer. 27 Notion. 28 Image.  
29 Cold blows this wind. 30 Turn round.

Reading Down. 1 A letting of  
lands. 2 Singular. 3 In eager excite-  
ment. 4 French for of. 5 To trust.  
6 Carried. 7 Industrious insect. 10  
Obstruct. 14 Visual. 15 Foremost  
division of an army. 17 Commerce.  
20 Used for transferring liquids. 22  
To be in debt. 23 On washing day this  
is added to the water. 24 Useful  
fastener. 26 Small spot. 28 Pronoun.  
Asterisks indicate abbreviations.  
Answer next week.



## ACHIEVEMENT

THE Comedian: My parents  
tried hard to keep me from  
becoming an actor.

The Villain: I congratulate  
them on their success.

## Remember

HEARTS are little doors; they  
ope with ease  
To very little keys.  
Kindly remember two of these  
Are "Thank you, sir," and "If  
you please."

## CONSIDERATION

A FRENCHMAN in England re-  
marked to his host: "How  
much more considerate the En-  
glish railways are for their pas-  
sengers' comfort than are the  
Continental lines."

"In what way do you mean?"  
asked the Englishman.

"Well, the other day at Pad-  
dington I noticed that there were  
not only compartments for Smok-  
ing and Dining, but others which  
were labelled Reading and Bath.  
So considerate, I thought!"

...and the LIGHTS  
will come back...

Have you ever thought that  
kiddies are growing up who have  
never seen a lighted street lamp?  
It is a strange world that children  
are living in to-day, and yet they  
are thriving.

'Milk of Magnesia' has done a  
good job in helping to keep the  
health standard of children high  
by correcting minor  
upsets of the  
digestion, so im-  
portant in the  
'growing-up'  
period.  
By helping to safe-  
guard our children,  
'Milk of Magnesia'  
is assisting in build-  
ing the sound health  
of the men and  
women of to-  
morrow.



## 'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

Trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia

2 TREATMENTS  
IN ONE FOR...  
CHEST  
COLDS

Your tight, achy chest gets help in  
two ways—inside and out—when  
you rub on "Vick" at bedtime:

1. You breathe in the healing "Vick"  
vapours straight to the sore, in-  
flamed air-passages.
2. Like a poultice, "Vick" works on  
the skin, easing congestion.

Breathing easily, you sleep in com-  
fort, wake feeling fit again.



## The Economy Drink

OXO makes the finest quick  
drink for cold days. Children  
love it, and a cup of hot OXO  
will send them off to school  
warm to the fingertips!



OF SPECIAL VALUE FOR

GROWING CHILDREN